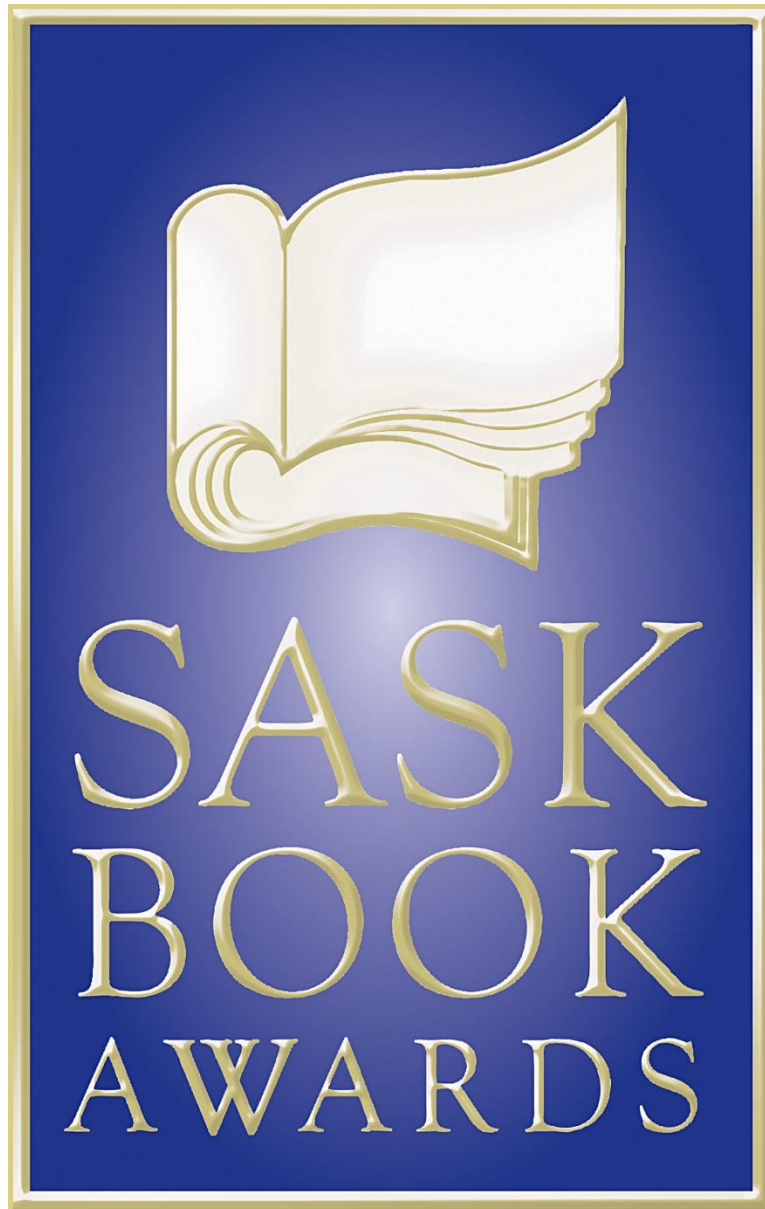
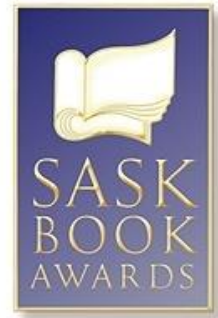


**Saskatchewan Book Awards
2016 Annual Report**



Saskatchewan Book Awards 2016

Created in 1993, Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA) is the only provincially-focused book award program in Saskatchewan and a principal ambassador for Saskatchewan's literary community, which includes more than 500 writers and 40 book publishers. Its solid reputation for celebrating artistic excellence is recognized nationally.



Saskatchewan publishers are hardworking owners of small businesses who produce a unique cultural product created through the artistic efforts of Saskatchewan writers. The SBA adjudication process provides an independent assessment of the quality of books submitted for consideration for Awards. SBA helps connect the producers of the product—writers—with the people who want to buy and use the product – readers. The Awards help writers continue their work and help publishers market the finished product. Saskatchewan people are connected to a home-grown creative industry through the Awards and public events such as readings.

2016 Saskatchewan Book Awards – Overview

- **185 entries** with **83** titles submitted across **13** categories
- **12 Saskatchewan publishers** submitted books across the **13** categories
- **13 categories** of **10** writing awards and **3** publishing awards

Awards for Authors

- Book of the Year Award (established 1993) – **28 submissions**
- Fiction Award (established 1995) – **16 submissions**
- Non-Fiction Award (established 1994) – **17 submissions**
- First Book Award (established 1993) – **16 submissions**
- Children's Literature Award (established 1995) – **15 submissions**
- Poetry Award (established 1995) – **11 submissions**
- Regina Book Award (established 1993) – **15 submissions**
- Saskatoon Book Award (established 1998) – **19 submissions**
- Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award (established 2009) – **9 submissions**
- Scholarly Writing Award (established 1999) – **6 submissions**

Awards for Publishers

- Publishing Award (est. 1993) – **15 submissions**
- Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award (est. 2009) – **3 submissions**
- Publishing in Education Award (est. 1996) – **11 submissions**

Saskatchewan Book Awards Sponsor List

Award Sponsors

1. University of Regina (Book of the Year)
2. O'Reilly Insurance and The Co-operators (First Book Award)
3. City of Regina (Regina Book Award)
4. University of Saskatchewan (Non-Fiction Award)
5. Rasmussen, Rasmussen and Charowsky (Aboriginal People's Writing Award)
6. Saskatchewan Arts Board (Poetry Award)
7. SaskEnergy (Children's Literature Award)
8. Regina Public Library (Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award)
9. City of Saskatoon (Saskatoon Book Award)
10. Saskatoon Public Library (Saskatoon Book Award)
11. Luther College (Scholarly Writing Award)
12. University of Regina Faculty of Arts (Scholarly Writing Award)
13. University of Regina Faculty of Education (Publishing in Education Award)
14. Campion College (Publishing in Education Award)
15. Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (Publishing Award)
16. Muslims for Peace and Justice (Fiction Award)
17. Ann and Roger Phillips (Prix du livre français)(not offered in 2016)

Awards Ceremony Sponsors and Partners

18. Friesens (Awards Ceremony sponsor)
19. Prairie Dog and Planet S (donations in-kind, for advertising)
20. Access Communications (films event)
21. SaskBooks
22. SWG
23. SLA
24. Conexus Arts Centre
25. CJTR (in-kind)

Donors

1. John and Linda Nilson
2. Dave Margoshes
3. Joanne Skidmore

Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors to the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Book Awards

2015/16 saw the Saskatchewan Book Awards continue with many of the successes of the previous year. For instance, SBA Program Director Courtney Bates-Hardy remained the key staff person for the organization, growing her skills by attending a class on non-profit management and maintaining her impressive level of commitment to SBA. In recognition of her achievements and her continued dedication to SBA, Courtney asked that when her contract was renewed in 2016, that her title be changed from Program Director to Executive Director, in order to better reflect her increasing role in the management of the finances of the organization, her experience leading others, her increased knowledge, and her enhanced and informed decision making. The SBA Board agreed that this title change was warranted, and we are very happy to be able to call Courtney the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

2016 was also the second year for the organization to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Saskatchewan Arts Board. The Saskatchewan Arts Board is one of SBA's primary funders, and the MOU makes reporting a great deal easier, and represents an increase in funding from 2013 levels as well. As the Arts Board revises its Professional Arts Organization Program funding (the umbrella that SBA was under prior to the MOU), it has been a comfort to know that our reporting will remain the same. We will renegotiate the MOU in the Autumn.

In 2016, SBA again partnered with the Regina Public Library on their Readers Summit (in 2016 called instead Writes of Spring). SBA partnered with RPL to present 3 readings; a fourth reading by a "mystery" winner was planned, but unfortunately that particular reading fell through due to scheduling conflicts. If SBA works with RPL on the event in 2017, we will reexamine the "mystery" winner concept, as while it worked out in 2015, it is a complicated event. The SBA readings that were presented were successful however, including standing-room only readings by Cassidy McFadzean and Guy Vanderhaeghe, and a well-attended reading by Harold Johnson.

Securing adequate and stable funding continues to be an issue for SBA, as it does for many non-profit and arts organizations. SBA was invited to attend a meeting with the Provost of the University of Regina, who informed SBA that the University would have to reduce its level of sponsorship in future years, due to shortfalls owing to the decline in oil prices. In fact, the First Nations University of Canada already had to withdraw from its sponsorship of the Aboriginal People's Publishing Award. Fortunately the Regina Public Library, who had previously been a sponsor of the Guest Speaker and the Awards Ceremony itself was happy to take over the sponsorship. Another long time sponsor, Jacqui Schumiatcher, had to withdraw her sponsorship of the Fiction Award. Courtney was able to find an alternate sponsor in March, from Regina based organization Muslims for Peace and Justice. Fortunately all of the Awards were sponsored and SBA did not have to withhold prize money from any of the Award winners, but SBA was without an event sponsor, which means the 2016 Awards Ceremony will likely see a small shortfall.

The Awards Ceremony itself was a great success, with an almost record number of tickets sold, and attendance by dignitaries such as the Lieutenant Governor, Members of Parliament, Members of

the Legislative Assembly, and City Councilors. SBA partnered with McNally Robinson to offer a book sales table that generated almost \$3000 in sales, and the evening featured a successful performance by local band Andino Suns. Saskatoon comedian and former SBA winner Dawn Dumont was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, and her performance of that duty was met with a great deal of acclaim.

Courtney did an excellent job of producing shortlist readings in conjunction with groups such as the Vertigo Reading Series and McNally Robinson, and forthcoming readings including partnerships with the Cathedral Village Arts Festival and the Saskatchewan Festival of Words. SBA also partnered with the Saskatchewan Library Association to host a silent auction at their annual conference, which raised a modest donation for the organization. In 2015, Courtney also pioneered the idea of offering a “blind date with a book” at the SLA event, selling wrapped-books with evocative descriptions for \$10 a piece. The “blind date” was repeated in 2016, and was just as successful, generating both excitement and funds for SBA.

In November 2015 I met with representatives of some of the Book Awards stakeholders, mainly Judith Silverthorne of the Saskatchewan Writers Guild and Jillian Bell of SaskBooks. Unfortunately a representative from the Saskatchewan Library Association was not available. SBA tries to meet with its stakeholders on a yearly basis, and often the news we have to deliver is dire, but in 2015 we had the privilege of being cautiously optimistic about the future of the organization. Meeting with our stakeholders is also a great way to make sure that the values of the organization remain aligned with those groups and to solicit feedback. A similar meeting will be planned for 2016, and may include board members from SBA and the stakeholder organizations as well.

Future work for 2016 will include a strategic planning session, to update the SBA 5 Year Strategic Plan that was developed 5 years ago, pursuit of sponsorships, and potentially a move of the Awards Ceremony to Saskatoon for the first time in the history of the organization. I would like to thank the 2015/16 Board of SBA for all of their hard work, which helped the organization have such a successful year, and I look forward to working with the 2016/17 board to have an equally successful year where we can face the challenges of the organization head on.

Thank you very much.

Daniel Parr
Chair
May 18, 2016

SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS
Awards Ceremony Committee
Report to the Board of Directors
Annual General Meeting - May 18, 2016

The 23rd Annual Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony took place on the evening of Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. 13 Awards were presented to writers and publishers, and dignitaries in attendance included the Lieutenant Governor Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale, Member of the Legislative Assembly Muhammad Fiaz, and City Councilor Shawn Fraser. The MC for the evening was Saskatoon comedian Dawn Dumont. In total, there were 364 attendees, 91 of which attended with complimentary tickets paid for through sponsorships. Tickets were priced at \$50 if purchased before April 1, and \$60 if purchased after April 1 but before the deadline of April 28. The Conexus's Prairie Buffet meal was served prior to the commencement of the program, to popular acclaim (Her Honour particularly enjoyed not be subjected to roast beef yet again).

There were a number of Ancillary activities at the Awards Ceremony as well. A Book Sales table with books provided by McNally Robinson and staffed by SBA volunteers sold nearly \$3000 worth of books. A door prize raffle was held, as well as a 50/50, which raised \$280 to be used for reading fees. A musical performance by three members of local band Andino Sun before the intermission brought some energy into the proceedings.

The Awards Ceremony Committee commissioned a "book arch" as a decorative piece, and it was well received by those in attendance, and made a great backdrop for photographs. The book arch cost \$945 (but this cost was defrayed by a \$100 donation by ACC member Coby Stephenson), but it is intended to be an investment for the organization; not only can it be used for future Awards Ceremonies, it can, at the board's discretion, be rented out for events to recoup some of its production costs.

The event was made successful thanks to the efforts of 7 non-board volunteers and the contributions of SBA board members. The ACC made an effort to provide volunteers with complimentary tickets that were unclaimed from the sponsorship allocations, and volunteers were fed a special meal prior to the event so they could focus on their duties during the course of the evening. Board members, in addition to volunteering, also bought tickets to the event.

Thank you.

Submitted by the Awards Ceremony Committee: Courtney Bates-Hardy, Austin Davis, Avnee Paranjape, Daniel Parr, and Coby Stephenson

SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS
Diversity Committee
Report to the Board of Directors
Annual General Meeting - May 18, 2016

Summary

1. Mandate and Inception
2. Activities
3. Recommendations
4. Future

1. Mandate and Inception

The Diversity Committee is a new committee to the Saskatchewan Book Awards, that had its mandate officially recognized at the board meeting on January 20, 2016. The mandate presented to the board was: "The Saskatchewan Book Award's diversity committee will make an active effort to reach out to and engage new audiences, to ensure that SBA's programming better serves the need of Saskatchewan's changing population." SBA's values encourage diversity through our slate of awards, which include awards for Aboriginal writers and publishers, as well as the francophone community. However, SBA is almost 25 years old, and its values and awards have not changed to take into account Saskatchewan's rapidly changing demographics. The Diversity Committee was created with the intention of reaching out to new communities in the province and making the Book Awards a welcoming organization for Canadians of all backgrounds.

2. Activities

Because it was incorporated in January, the work of the Diversity Committee run up against the shortlist announcement, shortlist readings, and preparations for the Awards Ceremony in April. The Diversity Committee investigated the possibility of securing a grant or sponsor to provide Ceremony tickets to an organization like the Regina Open Door Society to get a new audience interested and involved with the Saskatchewan Book Awards. Unfortunately, no such funding presented itself prior to the Awards Ceremony, so the idea was dropped for this year.

3. Recommendations

At this time, the Diversity Committee has no recommendations to make.

4. Future

Operating from the AGM, and with the whole year to pursue our work, we believe the Diversity Committee will be able to enact meaningful change in 2016/17, in conjunction with other committees and on its own. In 2016/17, the Diversity Committee will focus on finding independent sources of funding for its programs, preparing a list of recommendations for the Criteria Committee to consider regarding new awards, and other programs to be decided.

Thank you very much.

Submitted by Diversity Committee Members Vijay Kachru, Avnee Paranjape, and Daniel Parr.